

Education and Empowerment for Arkansas Voters

The Voter's Choice 1998 defines how elections are functioning in Arkansas.

To determine the health of elections, two different methods are used. Voting patterns and numbers are dissected, primarily based on demographics drawn from raw data. Just as importantly, other information is gleaned from personal contact with Arkansans in the field.

Since 1996, the Secretary of State's office has made great strides in voter education, as well as creating partnerships with other agencies to spread the word about the importance of voting. Despite this progress, too few Arkansans exercise the very step that drives our country's democracy in voting.

Our people, along with many other Americans, often fail to have a strong awareness of the relationship between their voting records and the manner in which our government operates. We are striving to heighten that connection.

As we head into the millennium, be assured that my office will continue to build on our heritage of service.

More emphasis will be placed on proactive voter education, particularly for the youth of our state. We also will seek common ground with even more partners, who share our goal of increasing ways for Arkansans to become more involved in the election process. Only in this manner will we reduce cynicism about government and make our democracy more fully participatory.

Maron Aret



1998 Voter's Choice





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An Overall Look at 1998

Election year 1998 brought to the Secretary of State's Office those issues that typically surround an election year:

- accelerated voter education
- appropriate application of technology
- candidate filings
- voter registration drives
- absentee and early voting
- citizen initiatives and referendums
- Primary, General and Special Election days

It was a noteworthy year in terms of outreach to voters. Other significant achievements in 1998 were the newly defined partnerships which emerged between our office and the following:

- Arkansas schools
- Offices of Driver Services
- Arkansas Department of Health
- County Election Commissioners
- County Clerks

These connections have become stronger and in each case have gained focus since the implementation of the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) in 1996. Through cooperation and shared information, the entities are working together to provide the state of Arkansas with a registration and election atmosphere that is healthy and deserving of its audience...so that a voter may easily make choices and be inspired to act upon them.

MARIE REPUBLICATION

Picks Up The Pace

It is a goal of the Secretary of State's Office to promote characteristics of good citizenship in Arkansas. Through educational approaches, Voter Services seeks to convince Arkansans that they have a stake in democracy and that there is a primary avenue for involvement: voting.

Education on voter issues targeted several specific groups in 1998. Because young voters were least likely to vote in 1996, we frequently spoke in university political science classes all across the state. College students seemed particularly interested in the question of whether to register in their home counties (where their parents live) and vote absentee from there or to register where they attend school. Registration in either county, not both, is acceptable; so we stressed that the young people simply make a choice and then keep their information updated.

Voter Services devoted special attention to older Arkansans in 1998. Their unique issues involve convenience, or applying to register to vote by mail and then voting by absentee ballot. Information in these two areas continued to serve seniors who are physically active and those who are physically limited. Seniors remain the most committed constituency in the state when it comes to voter turnout.

Have you ever done it? Do It! November 3, 1998

VOTE!

Questions on early voting, polling sites or absentee voting? Call your County Clerk for details.

Postcards mailed to 18 and 19 year olds--9/98.

Captured Youth

High school political science classes, senior assemblies and college nights were perfect forums for educational sessions, and Voter Services staff members were on hand. Obviously, those students who had recently turned 18, or would soon do so, had many questions about registration and voting in general. Emphasis was placed on the message that "every single vote counts," easily demonstrated in several 1998 elections. We questioned students about their interest in issues like city curfews and college financial aid. By presenting issues to the young people that were of direct interest to them, we explained that their participation in voting is their most effective avenue of expression.

In September, Voter Services mailed over 16,000 postcards to 18 and 19 year old registrants statewide. The postcard was geared toward seizing the attention of a young audience and urging them to act upon their recent decisions to register to vote. Of the 25,914 new registrants who were 18-24, approximately 1/3 turned out to vote. Efforts to reach the young voters and challenge them to participate will continue to accelerate into 1999.

A pilot program with special hands-on sessions geared to junior high students and elementary students in fourth through sixth grades was implemented in 1998. Through a partnership with Susan Inman, Pulaski County Election Coordinator, Little Rock elementary school students were able to see and touch actual voting booths and sample ballots. This type of experience was very positive and popular; future cooperation with election officials across the state in similar programs is planned and promises to be very

valuable. It is the hope of the Secretary of State's Office that through such efforts, familiarization with the registration and election process at an early age will better orient tomorrow's voters and encourage them to participate and commit.

Seniorscape

Since senior citizens are the state's most active voters, Voter Services wanted to show appreciation for that involvement and to educate older Arkansans about the conveniences of registering by mail and of early and absentee voting.

We participated in voter registration drives conducted by numerous healthcare associations and nursing homes in 1998. We also scheduled speaking engagements in residential care facilities statewide specifically to stress the convenience of voting absentee, the proper procedures to follow, and the proper time frames to observe.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

Margaret Mead

What is AP?

Although the percentage of registered Arkansans jumped 3% from 1994 to 1996, Arkansas lagged behind the national average in 1996 by 3%. Figures from the Federal Election Commission show Arkansas at a 79.11% registration rate. National figures for 1998 are not available at this time.

The Voting Age Population figures (commonly referred to as VAP) are routinely used by governmental and research groups. These figures are somewhat flawed in that they include aliens, convicted felons, and people deemed incompetent - all who cannot vote - and exclude citizens living outside the U.S. who can vote. Although the figures have their limitations, they are commonly used as denominators in figuring voting age population percentages. As mentioned earlier, many researchers adjust their registration numbers downward by as much as 10% to account for voters whose names should have been removed from voter registration lists ("deadwood").

Counties in Arkansas showing 90% or higher registration rates are: Garland, Madison, Newton, Perry, Phillips, Scott, Searcy, and Stone.

Counties showing substantial increases (30% or higher) since 1995 are: Benton, Faulkner, Garland, Howard, Lafayette, Lonoke, Madison, Pope, Saline, Searcy, Washington, and White.

Voter Participation Statistics

All types of media speculation in 1998 centered on voter turnout. Would high/low turnout benefit one party over another? Well, the results are in, and critics can come to their own conclusions.

The Primary Election - 26%

As of this date, the only national turnout figures for 1998 are based on VAP, not on registration. As a percentage of VAP, turnout for the Arkansas Primary Election was 20.08% as opposed to a national turnout figure of 17.5%. Arkansas beat the national average in the primary. At least one national study cited this national figure as a record low for primary turnout. (http://tap.epn.org/csae/cgans3.html Committee for the Study of the American Electorate)

Registered Voters 4/21/98	Democratic Participating Voters	Republican Participating Voters	Combined Turnout	Overall % Turnout
1,435,722	318.081	54,777	373,578	26.02%

Arkansas	Participating	Turnout %
VAP	Voters	of Voters
1,860,127	373,578	20.08%

In the General Election - 48%

Registered	Democratic	Reform	Republican	Combined	Turnout %
Voters 10/5/98	Voters	Voters	Voters	Voters	
1,471,413	272,923	11,099	421,989	706,011	47.98%

Arkansas VAP	Participating Voters	Turnout % of VAP
1,860,127	706,011	37.95%

- The only age group in the state that increased its voter turnout was the 50+ age group. Their figures increased from 48% participation to 55.77% from 1996 to 1998.
- 18-35 year olds declined in turnout 7% from 1996 to 1998.
- 36-50 year olds only declined slightly from 30% to 28.72%.
- Of the new registrants, the 18-35 year olds voted in much larger numbers than the other two groups. Their participation rate was over 52%!
- National turnout figures are still unavailable for the general election. However, CNN's projected turnout as a percentage of VAP was 38%, matching the percentage of VAP in Arkansas.



Party Affiliation Statistics

Since it is not legally required, only 2.94% of Arkansans choose to identify themselves with one particular party on voter registration records. This figure does reveal a small statewide increase from last year.

Lack of party affiliation is occurring nationwide. This is another issue inviting speculation. At the very least, those commenting on the issue seem to agree that this trend reveals discontent with political parties in America.

For the third year in a row, new registrants have become less willing to declare a party affiliation. Since 1996, this percentage has declined from 9.1% to 7.5%.

Based on 1998 Gubernatorial Race

Political Party	Democratic	Reform	Republican	None, Undecided, Other
Affiliated Arkansans	31,403	43	12,156	1,439,209





www.fec.gov www.lwv.org tap.epn.org/csae www.census.gov www.apa.org

Federal Election Commission League of Women Voters Committee For the Study of the American Electorate US Census Bureau American Psychological Association

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The number of registrations resulting from voter drives jumped 700% from 1997 to 1998. This jump is attributed to the interest in the eight petitions circulated statewide and to the extra efforts of candidates and community groups that typically occur during an election year. However, the 1998 figure was lower than the 1996 figure by 50%. (Eight petitions were actually on the ballot in 1996, which skewed registration drive figures upward. Also, 1996 was the first year that the drive process was available to the general public, not just deputized registrars.)

Voter Registration DRIVES Everywhere

Voter Services distributes informational material to anyone hosting a voter registration drive. We are pleased to help in any way possible, including attending the drive and assisting in the hands-on process.

An excellent source for voter registration drive tips is the homepage for the League of Women Voters. The site includes "10 Steps To A Successful Registration Drive" which is very useful to novices. (www.lwv.org)

VOTING ALTERNATIVES:

Absentee, Early or at the Polls

Although voter turnout declined in 1998 from previous election years, absentee and early voting figures have remained constant from 1996. 48% of the counties recorded a decrease in the number of voters that chose to vote early or absentee, while 25% of the counties recorded an increase. Increases were of higher margins than the decreases - enough so to maintain a 15% early and absentee participation rate in 1998.

Five counties, including the two largest (Pulaski and Washington) recorded 6% and 8% increases respectively. With the implementation of early voting at satellite locations by the Pulaski County Election Commission, the raw numbers of early and absentee voters topped 17,000 in that county alone.

There appears to be no correlation between overall voter turnout and percentage of voters voting early or absentee; neither is there an apparent relationship between the size of the county and the percentage. It seems that local efforts to promote the utilization of the two voting methods could be the greatest determining factor.

It is important to note that for the more rural counties, early voting is not necessarily a convenience for the voters. Although this method offers an expanded 15 day window in which to vote, the voter must vote at the County Courthouse. For many voters in the state, such a drive is inconvenient when compared to voting on election day at a neighborhood polling site.

The State Board of Election Commissioners and the Secretary of State joined together to conduct training courses for poll workers across the state. Again, a partnership paid off: better education for the poll workers translates to better service to the voters of Arkansas.

"It's clear that people brought up in a political tradition - show up to vote."

Scott Keeter, PhD Virginia Commonwealth University

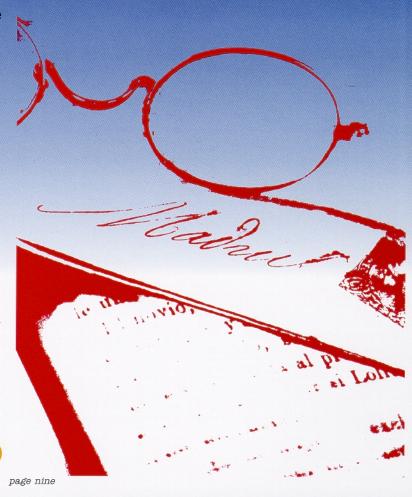
GRASSROOTS EFFORTS

Citizen Initiatives and Referendums

Although eight petitions for various issues circulated the state in 1998, only two actually filed signatures with the Secretary of State. Of these two, only one met the legal signature requirement-Amendment 4, a property tax amendment.

The Elections Division was in charge of petition management, and together with temporary employees, verified over 161,000 names. With the assistance of a streamlined statewide database file and a simplified user interface (thanks to the Information Technology Department), the process went quickly and efficiently. Verification of the search process and an audit of the numbers was expertly handled by Jeffrey, Phillips, Mosley & Scott PA. It was truly a successful team effort in the Office of Secretary of State.

Amendment 4 was indeed certified for the ballot. However, opponents of the amendment challenged the validity of certain signatures in court and won. Therefore, Amendment 4 failed to appear on the November General ballot due to insufficient signatures.



Registration Agencies Team U)

Legal deadlines for voter eligibility dictate that voters mai or submit to an agency the Arkansas Voter Registration Application no later than 30 days prior to an election. Regardless of the application avenue a voter takes (application by mail, in libraries and state agencies, or by electronic submission by Offices of Driver Services), the application is forwarded to the appropriate County Clerk in the county of the voter's physical residence. Only the County Clerk may approve a voter application. The voter must receive confirmation of registration from the County Clerk before considering himself or herself truly registered

As in any election, there

were frustrated voters who had applied to register at voter registration agencies and were not on the county voter rolls on election day. Since the implementation of application to register by mail, the Office of Secretary of State has urged voters to follow up on registration status before election day. We encourage voters to be personally involved in all phases of the registration process, including checking with their county clerks if they have not been contacted in a reasonable time period regarding registration approval.

Voter Services took steps to assist in the education of state agency employees so that this message would be clearly delivered to applicants. "R.A.V.E." (Real Answers to Voter Essentials) cards were designed and distributed to all state agency employees who assist in the voter registration process. Similar laminated cards were customized to meet the specific needs of employees of Driver Services. The Driver Services cards refer directly to the software used by the employees each day and successfully integrate voter registration into their everyday workflow.

Driver Services further answered the challenge by changing its drivers license receipts to include a very noticeable message to the prospective voter. The message reminds the client that he or she is not yet registered to vote. It encourages

the client to follow up with the local County Clerk if no registration acknowledgment is received within 30 days.

Such proactive steps by the agencies demonstrate a team approach toward increasing the integrity of the voter registration process. This approach also reveals responsibility and accountability on the part of the offices regarding the important issues of agency and voter education. Since over 50% of the new registrants each year choose a state agency as their registration site of choice, it is vital that such cooperation continues

Notice Added to Driver's License Receipt

"If you chose electronic voter registration application today please remember that the revenue office does not register voters, but only forwards registration applications to your county clerk. If you have not received approval of your registration within 2 weeks, call your local county clerk immediately.

Your voter registration is important. Follow up - don't wait until it's too late.

If you applied for voter registration today and were given a paper voter registration application, remember to fill it out completely and send it to your local county clerk as soon as possible."

ELECTION TURNOUT

Since NVRA expanded voter outreach in 1996, voter rolls have expanded by 26% in Arkansas! Consequently, many more voters must go to the polls to sustain voter turnout figures.

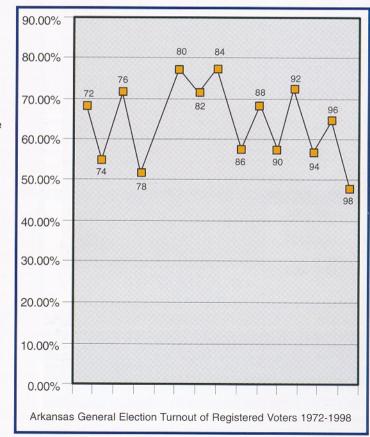
Turnout is measured one of two ways. For the General Election, if figuring the turnout of registered voters, Arkansas had a turnout of 48%. If figuring the turnout of voting and the state of 48% of the state of 48%.

ing age population (VAP), the turnout was 38%.

Of course, everyone seems to have an opinion on the reasons for low voter turnout. Some experts cite that Americans feel alienated from government, making them less likely to participate. Still others say there is a growing feeling in the country of distrust of authority. According to the League of Women Voters, "Low voter turnout suggests that citizens no longer see the relevance of government to their lives and that they are choosing to withhold their consent."

Studies have been conducted that offer insight on voter participation. The American Psychological Association states that "People are more likely to vote if they come from a family that showed an interest in political issues, or if they came in contact with others along the way who had such an interest. Much depends on whether an individual sees a reason to vote." (www.apa.org) Demographic studies reveal that level of education corresponds with voter's likelihood to participate in the voting process-the higher the level of education, the higher the likelihood to vote.

The fact that registration is automatic and that voting takes place on weekends in some European countries has led some researchers to consider that "the differences in voting turnout between the U.S. and Europe can be attributed less to families and more to institutions." www.apa.org



VOTER REGISTRA



1995	1,178,118
1996	1,393,663
1997	1,438,097
1998	1,482,811

Voter Registration since NVRA

Voter registration in Arkansas continued on its course of healthy yearly increases-3% in 1998. Growth in registration since 12/95 is 26%.

It is important to realize that NVRA removed the practice of canceling a voter from the rolls simply because the voter had not voted. Before a County Clerk can remove a voter, the Clerk must first send an address confirmation notice. If the voter either fails to respond or if the notice is returned to the Clerk undeliverable, the Clerk may assign the "inactive" status to that voter. If an inactive voter then fails to vote in two consecutive federal general elections, the Clerk may cancel the voter.

At least one expert suggests that a "realistic picture of registration" is gained by subtracting the number of inactive voters from the registration total and then multiplying that result by 0.9. (http://www.tap.epn.org/csae). This figure would take into account any upward hike in the

rolls which routinely occurs during election years as well as "deadwood," or voters whose names should be removed for a variety of reasons.

Age Demographics of the Voters

50+

Currently, the age group best represented as voters in the state of Arkansas is the 50+ group. This group has maintained a yearly increase of 1% since 1996 and reflected 43% of registered voters in 1998. According to the U.S. Census Bureau(www.census.gov/ Press-Release/cb98-81.html), the fastest growing segment of the voting population for the 1998 election was the 45-64 year old age group. "This reflects the aging of the 'Baby Boomer' generation, born between 1946 and 1964." The report adds, "Since 1990, about 3/4 of the growth in the voting age population has occurred in the 45-64 year old age group (a 7% increase). By

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TION STATISTICS

November 1998, this group is projected to include 58 million people or almost 3 in 10 of the voting age population."

Obviously, Arkansas is following the national trend in this

area. 36-50

This age group in Arkansas was stable from 1996 to 1997 and then jumped 1% in 1998. It represents 30% of the current Arkansas voting population 18-35

The youngest age group in the state has shown a decline of 3% in voter registration since 1996. During 1996 and 1997, this trend mirrored the national picture of a population growing older.

18-24

Derived from only a six year age span, this subgroup represents over 7% of all registered voters in the state. Over 1/4 of the group voted in the last election. The year was projected to reflect a large national increase

in the 18-24 year olds, "reversing a decline that dates from 1981," according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

102,272 New Registrants in 1998

For the third year in a row, the 18-35 year olds dominated the scene of new registrants. This group has exceeded 50% of the new registrants in 1996, 1997 and 1998. Although this appears promising, actually the group is increasing at a decreasing rate, causing the overall percentage statewide to decline. This is true because 50% of the 18-35 year old group was actually 18-24.

The age group 36-50 represented 25% of the new registrants, increasing its overall percentage in the state by 1%. Because this group contains most of the 25-44 year old age group that, on a nation-

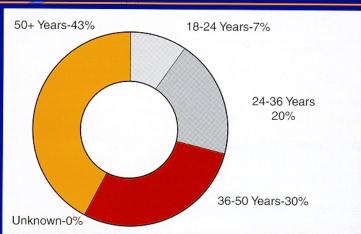
al basis, is the largest population group, statistics should continue to remain solid here.

New registrants over 50 years old comprised almost 24% of the new group. Such a healthy increase continues to push this already vital category forward.

If you don't like something, change it. If you can't change it, change your attitude. Don't complain.

Maya Angelou

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	18-24 Years	104,299
	24-36 Years	291,645
	36-50 Years	439,287
	50+ Years	646,660
	Unknown (Irregular DOB)	920
	Total	1,482,811
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Technology News

Most aspects of life now seem to be technology-driven, and election issues are no exception. Arkansas remains one of the few states in the country with a statewide voter "system". This results in each of the 75 counties using the same software for voter management. The statewide software used by the County Clerks continues to be reviewed and updated on a quarterly basis by the Secretary of State. New reports and more information on diskette dominated the lists of requested modifications in 1998.

Since the statewide software rolled out in 1996, not all County Clerks utilized the system for recording votes during that first election year. By 1998, virtually all 75 County Clerks were using more features of the system, creating richer data in the counties and offering more and more information to the public.

"Top Floppies"

County Clerks are able to provide more of a variety of information to constituents on diskette. The most requested data seems to be the list of participating voters in a county chosen either by general election or by party primary. Clerks also can distribute data by age range, precinct or zip code. The Clerks are able to export requested data into an ASCII text file on diskette, which accommodates the greatest number of potential end users.

Help Desk...Putting Service First

The Voter Services Help Desk responded to over 4500 phone and email requests in 1998. Over 80% of the phone calls to the two technicians were resolved on the spot, most often relating to training issues or mild technical incidents. Nearly 16% of the calls were forwarded to software technicians, while the remaining 4% were logged as hardware-related calls.

Reinventing Election Results Reporting

Voter Services offered the County Clerks and the Election Commissioners training in MicroSoft Excel so as to automate and standardize their election results. As a result of this training at the Capitol, 53% of the counties reported and certified their election results via MS Excel files on 3.5" diskettes in 1998. Such a team effort in efficient use of technology on the part of the counties resulted in quick and accurate election results on the SOS webpage.

Housekeeping...Data Maintenance

Data or "list" maintenance continues at the county level. All precinct voter registration lists at the polls included the phrase "Confirm Address" by the names of all inactive voters. This prompted poll workers to update the questionable addresses of those voters who had not responded to the 1997 Address Confirmation Mailing or whose mailings had been returned to the Clerks by the U.S. Post Office.

U.S. Congressional, State Senate and State Representative district data fields were standardized at the county level so that subsequent sorting by district would be possible at the state level.

For the first time, in December 1998, a file was transmitted to all County Clerks containing the names of all voters in the state that could be duplicative. The statewide check was based on voters across the state with the same last names and dates of birth. Secretary of State Information Technology Department designed a simple user interface for the County Clerks. The electronic file was then supplemented by a hard copy printout mailed to each county.

In order to centralize dissemination of death information, the Department of Health began sending the Secretary of State a monthly printout of death notices sorted by county of residence. Upon receipt, Voter Services now forwards the printouts to the respective counties so that the County Clerks may cancel the registrations of any voters who may have died. This is obviously helpful for ongoing data maintenance and the prevention of voter fraud.

Requests increased in 1998 for the statewide voter list. Through a Freedom of Information Act request, the statewide file is available on Zip [™] disk for \$20.00. The zipped 280 Mb text file contains name, address, precinct and last-date-voted information for all registered voters in the state. The availability of this file is a real value to requesting parties. If file recipients do not have the hardware to manipulate such a large file, then four smaller Congressional District files of 60-70 Mb may be substituted for the one large statewide file.

Record-Setting Filing Year: 435 Candidates

Candidate filings in March 1998 were precedent-setting and streamlined. The candidate database maintained by the Elections Division had been updated to a newer version of MicroSoft Access. It had been given a special patriotic facelift for the occasion by the Secretary of State Information Technology Department. Candidates from 1996 remained in the relational database, resulting in enhanced speed in the automated entry process.

The Elections Division encouraged all three political parties to accept filing fees onsite in the Capitol Rotunda instead of exclusively at their headquarters, which created a convenient turnkey filing process for the candidates.

For the first time, candidates and political consultants could purchase diskettes containing voter information by State Senate, Representative, and U.S. Congressional District-for \$1.00. The zipped ASCII text files contained names and addresses of voters and the last dates the constituents voted. Many candidates and consultants took advantage of the availability of this information.

During the regular filing period, 429 candidates filed: 311 Democrats, 114 Republicans, and four Reform Party candidates. Six Independent candidates filed later for a record grand total of 435 candidates in Arkansas for 1998. Candidate information was updated daily on the world wide web from the candidate database and several times a day on the Rotunda bulletin board for journalists present in the Capitol.

Arkansas County & Probate Clerk Aline Ellenberg 101 Courtsquare DeWitt, AR 72042 Work Phone 870-946-4349 Fax 870-946-4349

Ashley County Clerk Sonya L. Meeks 205 E. Jefferson, Box 5 Hamburg, AR 71646 Work Phone 870-853-2020 Fax 870-853-2005

Baxter County & Circuit Clerk Rhonda J. Porter #1 E. 7th St. Suite 103 Mountain Home, AR 72653 Work Phone 870-425-3475 Fax 870-424-5105

Benton County Clerk Mary L. Spradling 215 E. Central, Suite 217, Box 5 Bentonville, AR 72712 Work Phone 501-271-1013 or 5704 Fax 501-271-1019

Boone County Clerk David Witty 100 North Main, Suite 201 Harrison, AR 72601 Work Phone 870-741-8428 Fax 870-741-9724

Bradley County Clerk Janet Kimbrell 101 East Cedar Warren, AR 71671 Work Phone 870-226-3464 Fax 870-226-8401

Calhoun County & Circuit Clerk Alma L. Davis P.O. Box 1175 2nd & Main Sts Hampton, AR 71744 Work Phone 870-798-2517 Fax 870-798-2428 Carroll County Clerk Shirley Doss 210 West Church Berryville, AR 72616 Work Phone 870-423-2022 Fax 870-423-7400

Chicot County & Probate Clerk Pam Donaldson 108 Main Street Lake Village, AR 71653 Work Phone 870-265-8000 Fax 870-265-8018

Clark County & Probate Clerk Rhonda Williams 401 Clay St. Courthouse Square Arkadelphia, AR 71923 Work Phone 870-246-4491 Fax 870-245-3092

Clay County Clerk Charles Pollard P.O. Box 306 Piggott, AR 72454 Work Phone 870-598-2813 Fax 870-598-2813

Cleburne County Clerk Loretta Langster 301 West Main Courthouse Heber Springs, AR 72543 Work Phone 501-362-4620 Fax 501-362-4622

Cleveland County & Circuit Clerk Sharon K. Gray P.O. Box 368 Rison, AR 71665 Work Phone 870-325-6521 Fax 870-325-6144

Columbia County Clerk Sherry L. Bell 1 Court Square, Suite 1 Magnolia, AR 71753 Work Phone 870-235-3774 Fax 870-235-3773 page sixteen Conway County Clerk Beverly Paladino 117 South Moose Street Morrilton, AR 72110 Work Phone 501-354-9621 Fax 501-354-9610

Craighead County Clerk Nancy Nelms P.O. Box 1167 Jonesboro, AR 72403 Work Phone 870-933-4520 Fax 870-933-4514

Crawford County Clerk Patti Hill 300 Main Street, Room 7 Van Buren, AR 72956-5793 Work Phone 501-474-1312 Fax 501-471-3236

Crittenden County & Probate Clerk Ruth Trent 87 Jackson St. Marion, AR 72364 Work Phone 870-739-4434 Fax 870-739-3072

Cross County & Probate Clerk Peggy Tutor Jones 705 East Union, Room 8 Wynne, AR 72396 Work Phone 870-238-5735 Fax 870-238-5739

Dallas County & Circuit Clerk Norma Castleberry 206 West Third Street Fordyce, AR 71742 Work Phone 870-352-2307 Fax 870-352-7179

Desha County & Probate Clerk Brenda Smith-Morgan P.O. Box 218 Robert Moore St Arkansas City, AR 71630 Work Phone 870-877-2323 Fax 870-877-2531 Drew County Clerk Wesley M. Cavaness 210 South Main Monticello, AR 71655 Work Phone 870-460-6260 Fax 870-460-6246

Faulkner County Clerk Melinda Reynolds 801 Locust Street Conway, AR 72032 Work Phone 501-450-4909 Fax 501-450-4938

Franklin County Clerk Sharon Needham 211 West Commercial Ozark, AR 72949 Work Phone 501-667-3607 Fax 501-667-4247

Fulton County & Circuit Clerk Gene Maguffee P.O. Box 485 Salem, AR 72576 Work Phone 870-895-3310 Fax 870-895-3362

Garland County Clerk Nancy Johnson 501 Ouachita, Room 103 Hot Springs, AR 71901 Work Phone 501-622-3610 Fax 501-624-0665

Grant County & Circuit Clerk Carol Ewing 101 West Center, Room 106 Sheridan, AR 72150 Work Phone 870-942-2631 Fax 870-942-3564

Greene County Clerk Linda Heritage 320 W. Court St. Room 102 Po Box 62 Paragould, AR 72451 Work Phone 870-239-6311 Fax 870-239-3550 Hempstead County Clerk Velora Bright Haltom P.O. Box 1420 Hope, AR 71802-1420 Work Phone 870-777-2241 Fax 870-777-7829

Hot Spring County Clerk Carole Burns 210 Locust County Courthouse Malvern, AR 72104 Work Phone 501-332-2291 Fax 501-332-2221

Howard County & Probate Clerk Shirley Dildy 421 N. Main Street Courthouse Nashville, AR 71852 Work Phone 870-845-7502 Fax 870-845-7505

Independence County Clerk Margaret Boothby 192 East Main Street Batesville, AR 72501 Work Phone 870-793-8829 Fax 870-793-8803

Izard County & Circuit Clerk Rhonda Halbrook P.O. Box 95 Courthouse - Main St Melbourne, AR 72556 Work Phone 870-368-4316 Fax 870-368-4748

Jackson County Clerk
Paulette Dunn
208 Main St.
Courthouse
Newport, AR 72112
Work Phone 870-523-7420
Fax 870-523-7404

Jefferson County & Probate Clerk Helen McClinton Bradley P.O. Box 6317 Pine Bluff, AR 71611 Work Phone 870-541-5230 Fax 870-541-5324

Johnson County Clerk Kathy Pitts P.O. Box 57 Clarksville, AR 72830 Work Phone 501-754-3967 Fax 501-754-2286

Lafayette County & Probate Clerk Diane Fletcher #2 Courthouse Square Lewisville, AR 71845 Work Phone 870-921-4633 Fax 870-921-4505 (Judge's Office)

Lawrence County Clerk Billie Gail Dunlap P.O. Box 526 Walnut Ridge, AR 72476 Work Phone 870-886-1111 Fax 870-886-1122

Lee County & Probate Clerk Pat Wilson 15 East Chestnut Street, Room 4 Marianna, AR 72360 Work Phone 870-295-7715 Fax 870-295-7766

Lincoln County Clerk Phyllis Knight 300 South Drew Street Star City, AR 71667 Work Phone 870-628-5114 Fax 870-628-5546

Little River County Clerk Linda Coleman 351 North 2nd Street Ashdown, AR 71822 Work Phone 870-898-7208 Fax 870-898-7207

Logan County Clerk Monroe County Clerk Linda Core lanet Ellis Tweedle #25 Courthouse 123 Madison Street Paris, AR 72855 Clarendon, AR 72029 Work Phone 501-963-2618 Work Phone 870-747-3632 Fax 501-963-2590 Fax 870-747-5961 Lonoke County & Probate Clerk Montgomery County & Circuit Clerk Prudie Percefull Debbie Baxter P.O. Box 188 P.O. Box 369 3rd & Center Mount Ida, AR 71957 Lonoke, AR 72086 Work Phone 870-867-3521 Work Phone 501-676-2368 or 3020 Fax 870-867-2177 Fax 501-676-3038 (Judge's Office) Nevada County Clerk Madison County & Probate Clerk Julie Stockton P.O. Box 621 Faron Ledbetter P.O. Box 37 Courthouse Square #1 Main St. Prescott, AR 71857 Huntsville, AR 72740 Work Phone 870-887-2710 Work Phone 501-738-2747 Fax 870-887-5795 Fax 501-738-2735 Newton County & Circuit Clerk Marion County & Circuit Clerk Hubert Roberson P.O. Box 410 Mary Jo Layton P.O. Box 385 lasper, AR 72641 Yellville, AR 72687 Work Phone 870-446-5125 Work Phone 870-449-6226 Fax 870-446-2106 Fax 870-449-4979 Ouachita County & Probate Clerk Miller County Clerk Eve Holeman Ann Nicholás P.O. Box 1041 400 Laurel, #105 145 Jefferson Camden, AR 71711 Texarkana, AR 71854 Work Phone 870-837-2220 Work Phone 870-774-1501 Fax 870-837-2217 Fax 870-773-4090 Mississippi County & Probate Clerk Perry County & Circuit Clerk lo Ann Morgan Barbara Lovell 200 W. Walnut, Room 103 P.O. Box 358 Courthouse Perryville, AR 72126 Blytheville, AR 72315 Work Phone 501-889-5126 Work Phone 870-762-2411 Fax 501-889-5759 Fax 870-763-0150

Phillips County and Probate Clerk Linda White 620 Cherry Street, Suite 202 Helena, AR 72342 Work Phone 870-338-5505 Fax 870-338-5509 Pike County Clerk Dian Henderson P.O. Box 219, Courthouse Sq. Murfreesboro, AR 71958 Work Phone 870-285-2231 Fax 870-285-3281 Poinsett County & Probate Clerk Jda J. Bettis 40 Ĭ Market St., Courthouse Harrisburg, AR 72432 Work Phone 870-578-4412 Fax 870-578-2441 Polk County Clerk Pat Myers 507 Church Street Mena. AR 71953 Work Phone 501-394-8123 Fax 501-394-8115 Pope County Clerk Don Johnson 100 West Main Street Russellville, AR 72801 Work Phone 501-968-6064 Fax 501-967-2291 Prairie County & Circuit Clerk Karan Tate Box 1011 Des Arc. AR 72040 Work Phone 870-256-4434 Fax 870-256-4434 Pulaski County & Circuit Clerk Carolyn Staley P.O. Box 2659 401 West Markham, Suite 100 Little Rock, AR 72203-2659 Work Phone 501-340-8683 or 8500 Fax 501-340-8340

Randolph County Clerk Janis Mock 107 W. Broadway Courthouse Pocahontas, AR 72455 Work Phone 870-892-5822 Fax 870-892-8794

Saline County Clerk Freddy Burton 215 North Main, Suite 9 Benton, AR 72015 Work Phone 303-5630 Fax 501-303-5684

Scott County & Circuit Clerk Martha E. Hankins 100 W. 1st, Box 10 Waldron, AR 72958 Work Phone 501-637-2642 Fax 501-637-4199

Searcy County Clerk Wesley Smith P.O. Box 935 Marshall, AR 72650 Work Phone 870-448-3807 Fax 870-448-5005

Sebastian County & Probate Clerk Doris M. Tate P.O. Box 1087 35 S 6th St, Suite 102 Fort Smith, AR 72902 Work Phone 501-782-5065 Fax 501-784-1567

Sevier County Clerk Sandra Dunn 115 N. 3rd St., Room 102 Courthouse DeQueen, AR 71832 Work Phone 870-642-2852 Fax 870-642-3896 Sharp County & Circuit Clerk Tommy Estes P.O. Box 307 Ash Flat, AR 72513 Work Phone 870-994-7361 Fax 870-994-7712

St. Francis County & Probate Clerk Dick Krablin P.O. Box 1653 Forrest City, AR 72336 Work Phone 870-261-1725 Fax 870-630-1210

Stone County & Circuit Clerk Donna Wilson HC71, Box 1 Mountain View, AR 72560 Work Phone 870-269-5550 Fax 870-269-2303

Union County Clerk Connie Chandler 101 North Washington, Suite 102 El Dorado, AR 71730 Work Phone 870-864-1910 Fax 870-864-1927

Van Buren County & Circuit Clerk Maurice "Rickey" Bonds Whillock Route 6, Box 254-9 Clinton, AR 72031 Work Phone 501-745-4140 Fax 501-745-7400

Washington County Clerk Marilyn Edwards 280 North College, Suite 300 Fayetteville, AR 72701 Work Phone 501-444-1711 Fax 501-444-1894 White County & Probate Clerk Doug Faith White County Courthouse Searcy, AR 72143 Work Phone 501-279-6204 Fax 501-279-6233

Woodruff County Clerk Doris R. Wright 500 North Third Street Augusta, AR 72006 Work Phone 870-347-2871 Fax 870-347-2915

Yell County & Circuit Clerk Carolyn Morris P.O. Box 219 Danville, AR 72833 Work Phone 501-495-2414 Fax 501-495-3495

Data at a Glance-Registration Info

Registration Information		
Total Voters Year End 1998	1,482,811	79.72% of VAP
Arkansas VAP (U.S. Census Internet Release 9/4/98)	1,860,127	
Total Voters Year End 1997	1,438,097	
Total Voters Cancelled 1998	57,558	4.00%
Total New Voters Added 1998	102,272	3.11%
Total Active Voters Year End 1998	1,423,457	96.00%
Total Inactive Voters Year End 1998	59,354	4.00%
Address Confirmation Cards Sent 12/97	163,655	
% Inactive Voters to Cards Sent	36.27%	
Year End Registration - Age Groups		
18-24 (1/1/75-12/31/81)	104,299	7.03%
24-36 (1/1/63-12/31/74)	291,645	19.67%
36-50 (1/1/49-12/31/62)	439,287	29.63%
50+ (DOB<12/31/48)	646,660	43.61%
DOB Null	553	0.04%
DOB Irregular	367	0.02%
New Registrants 1998 - Age Groups	102,272	6.90%
18-24	25,914	25.34%
24-36	25,900	25.32%
36-50	26,157	25.58%
50+	24,278	23.74%
DOB Null or Irregular	23	0.02%
Party Affiliation Statewide	43,602	2.94%
Democrat	31,403	2.12%
Republican	12,156	0.82%
Reform	43	0.00%
None	1,439,209	97.06%

Party Affiliation New Registrants	7,687	7.52%
Democrat	4,744	4.64%
Republican	2,908	2.84%
Reform	35	0.03%
None	94,585	92.48%
All Registrants Who Voted In Any 1998 Election	738,212	49.78%
18-24	27,702	3.75%
24-36	86,725	11.75%
36-50	212,039	28.72%
50+	411,677	55.77%
DOB Null	5	0.00%
DOB Irregular	64	0.01%
New Registrants Who Voted In Any 1998 Election	48,527	47.45%
18-24	8,322	17.15%
24-36	17,116	35.27%
36-50	10,438	21.51%
50+	12,648	26.06%
Null or Irregular DOB	3	0.01%
Voters Registered By General Election Deadline	1,471,971	
Voter Turnout for General Election	706,011	47.96%
Voters Registered by Primary Election Deadline	1,435,722	
Voter Turnout for Primary Election	373,578	26.02%

Data at a Glance-NVRA

NVRA Data 1998		
Total Applications Processed by County Clerks	125,599	
Address Change Applications	13,812	11.00%
Name Change Applications	2,961	2.36%
Party Change Applications	35	0.03%
New Registration Applications	102,187	81.36%
Applications Processed as Duplicates	3,537	2.82%
Applications Placed In Pending	2,114	1.68%
Applications Declined	868	0.69%
New Registrations Not Appropriately Processed as "Applications"	85	0.07%
Total Applications Processed by SOS Mail Room	81,808	65.13%
Sources of Applications Processed by County Clerks (For New Registrations & Changes)	118,995	
Disability Agencies	329	0.28%
Driver Services License Related	24,192	20.33%
Driver Services Non-License Related	2,088	1.75%
Mail-Ins to SOS Non-Agency	22,365	18.79%
Recruitment Offices	206	0.17%
National Guard	31	0.03%
Public Assistance Agencies	5,185	4.36%
Voter Registration Drives	6,979	5.86%
County Clerk Walk-Ins	50,638	42.55%
No Agency Source Identified	5,631	4.73%
Public Libraries & Arkansas State Library	1,351	1.149

New Registrations and	102,272	
Application Sources		
Disability Agencies	287	0.28%
Driver Services License Related	23,413	22.89%
Driver Services Non-License Related	1,752	1.71%
Mail-Ins	19,409	18.98%
Recruitment Offices	165	0.16%
National Guard	30	0.03%
Public Assistance Agencies	4,583	4.48%
Voter Registration Drives	6,142	6.01%
County Clerk Walk-Ins	39,720	38.84%
No Source Identified	5,528	5.41%
Public Libraries & Arkansas State Library	1,243	1.22%
Declinations	766,578	
Disability Agencies	19,813	2.58%
Driver Services and Revenue	688,428	89.81%
Recruitment Offices	0	0.00%
National Guard	94	0.01%
Public Assistance Agencies	53,827	7.02%
Public Libraries & Arkansas State Library	4,416	0.58%

Voter Registration by County

COUNTY	Reg. Voters 12/31/95	Reg. Voters 12/31/96	Reg. Voters 12/31/97	Reg. Voters 12/31/98	%Change 97/98	%Change 95/98 (Since NVRA)
Arkansas	9,370	10,777	10,937	11,263	3%	20%
Ashley	12,541	14,014	14,277	14,530	2%	16%
Baxter	19,919	23,555	24,345	24,864	2%	25%
Benton	53,467	67,803	71,177	73,729	4%	38%
Boone	16,793	19,646	20,114	20,784	3%	24%
Bradley	5,645	6,348	6,483	6,468	0%	15%
Calhoun	3,418	3,710	3,680	3,743	2%	10%
Carroll	10,435	12,449	12,831	13,437	5%	29%
Chicot	7,178	7,985	8,086	8,168	1%	14%
Clark	10,544	12,410	12,642	13,274	5%	26%
Clay	8,178	9,417	9,850	10,002	2%	22%
Cleburne	11,806	13,698	14,428	14,918	3%	26%
Cleveland	4,182	4,726	4,843	5,008	3%	20%
Columbia	11,686	13,876	14,433	14,770	2%	26%
Conway	10,640	12,224	12,324	12,362	0%	16%
Craighead	31,477	37,594	39,018	40,504	4%	29%
Crawford	20,481	23,234	24,082	25,136	4%	23%
Crittenden	21,582	24,780	25,587	26,930	5%	25%
Cross	8,510	9,729	9,899	10,368	5%	22%
Dallas	5,953	6,249	6,201	6,040	-3%	1%
Desha	6,777	7,801	8,029	8,284	3%	22%
Drew	7,672	9,395	9,488	9,874	4%	29%
Faulkner	32,186	39,785	42,644	44,498	4%	38%
Franklin	7,660	8,969	9,220	9,480	3%	24%
Fulton	6,036	7,010	7,153	7,379	3%	22%
Garland	44,001	54,598	56,839	58,602	3%	33%
Grant	7,175	8,207	8,359	8,663	4%	21%
Greene	16,383	18,815	19,692	20,467	4%	25%
Hempstead	10,442	12,015	12,224	12,436	2%	19%
Hot Spring	14,327	16,579	16,891	17,216	2%	20%
Howard	5,343	6,997	7,098	7,221	2%	3%
Independence	15,043	18,023	17,264	18,271	6%	21%
Izard	6,757	7,687	7,812	8,143	4%	21%
Jackson	8,915	10,357	10,690	10,843	1%	22%
Jefferson	38,144	44,067	44,743	45,205	1%	19%
Johnson	6,331	7,648	9,294	11,424	23%	80%

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Lafayette	4,678	5,324	5,308	5,451	3%	17%
Lawrence	8,548	9,646	9,887	10,064	2%	18%
Lee	6,228	7,167	7,317	7,438	2%	19%
Lincoln	5,736	6,374	6,507	6,740	4%	18%
Little River	7,122	8,179	8,407	8,360	-1%	17%
Logan	11,162	12,591	12,896	13,207	2%	18%
Lonoke	19,612	24,189	25,261	26,636	5%	36%
Madison	6,703	7,647	7,674	8,698	13%	30%
Marion	7,435	9,006	9,236	9,568	4%	29%
Miller	17,128	18,373	18,695	20,013	7%	17%
Mississippi	22,611	25,159	25,447	25,610	1%	13%
Monroe	4,897	5,637	5,723	5,872	3%	20%
Montgomery	4,816	5,513	5,609	5,661	1%	18%
Nevada	5,233	5,978	6,106	6,142	1%	17%
Newton	5,113	5,888	5,979	6,095	2%	19%
Ouachita	16,682	18,803	19,304	19,944	3%	20%
Perry	5,597	6,243	6,364	6,546	3%	17%
Phillips	13,930	15,791	16,101	17,184	7%	23%
Pike	5,006	5,854	5,926	6,309	6%	26%
Poinsett	10,720	12,258	12,785	13,080	2%	22%
Polk	8,805	10,516	10,878	11,311	4%	28%
Pope	22,472	28,984	30,237	30,624	1%	36%
Prairie	5,019	5,486	5,504	5,604	2%	12%
Pulaski	171,442	209,126	214,373	217,466	1%	27%
Randolph	7,684	8,823	9,293	9,643	4%	25%
St. Francis	13,106	15,598	16,063	16,825	5%	28%
Saline	35,932	44,118	45,517	47,033	3%	31%
Scott	7,055	7,691	7,631	7,644	0%	8%
Searcy	4,661	5,681	5,689	6,153	8%	32%
Sebastian	49,168	53,376	57,199	62,081	9%	26%
Sevier	6,063	6,738	6,741	6,983	4%	15%
Sharp	9,158	10,840	11,032	11,210	2%	22%
Stone	6,383	7,183	7,347	7,627	4%	19%
Union	21,613	24,296	24,806	25,003	1%	16%
Van Buren	8,760	10,025	10,222	10,519	3%	20%
Washington	55,126	70,096	72,993	74,309	2%	35%
White	26,233	32,253	34,120	34,209	0%	30%
Woodruff	4,417	4,816	4,853	4,808	-1%	9%
Yell	9,067	10,219	10,390	10,837	4%	20%
TOTALS	1,178,118	1,393,662	1,438,097	1,482,811	3%	26%

Voter Turnout by County

COUNTY	Reg. Voters	Democratic Participating Voters	Republican Participating Voters	Reform Participating Voters	Combined Turnout	Overall % Turnout
Arkansas	11,120	2,267	2,917	59	5,243	47%
Ashley	14,320	2,945	3,843	61	6,849	48%
Baxter	25,054	4,060	8,306	2511	12,617	50%
Benton	74,893	9,627	27,672	9713	28,270	51%
Boone	20,319	2,567	7,080	371	10,018	49%
Bradley	6,523	1,469	1,691	31	3,191	49%
Calhoun	3,710	600	927	14	1,541	42%
Carroll	13,257	2,462	4,806	221	7,489	56%
Chicot	8,037	2,075	1,750	48	3,873	48%
Clark	13,422	2,890	3,447	44	6,381	48%
Clay	9,938	2,670	2,573	47	5,290	53%
Cleburne	14,639	2,541	4,925	97	7,563	52%
Cleveland	4,943	1,030	1,594	20	2,644	53%
Columbia	14,519	1,882	4,886	85	6,853	47%
Conway	12,312	2,337	3,491	88	5,916	48%
Craighead	40,064	9,710	9,742	348	19,800	49%
Crawford	25,310	3,553	9,039	180	12,772	50%
Crittenden	26,445	4,945	5,545	128	10,618	40%
Cross	10,149	2,346	2,462	51	4,859	48%
Dallas	6,030	1,083	1,483	2	2,587	43%
Desha	8,240	1,522	1,668	43	3,233	39%
Drew	9,541	2,018	2,681	39	4,738	50%
Faulkner	44,193	6,214	12,494	358	19,066	43%
Franklin	9,441	1,896	3,270	101	5,267	56%
Fulton	7,388	1,496	1,577	46	3,119	42%
Garland	57,647	9,907	16,573	437	26,917	47%
Grant	8,472	1,552	2,630	52	4,234	50%
Greene	19,890	4,034	5,005	123	9,162	46%
Hempstead	12,487	2,032	3,286	53	5,371	43%
Hot Spring	16,932	3,553	4,104	126	7,783	46%
Howard	7,213	1,387	1,753	24	3,164	44%
Independence	17,718	4,341	4,867	107	9,315	53%
Izard	8,119	2,276	2,543	72	4,891	60%
Jackson	10,734	2,776	2,262	61	5,099	48%
Jefferson	45,296	9,641	10,925	343	20,909	46%
Johnson	11,211	1,969	3,602	91	5,662	51%

Lafayette	5,428	1,288	1,581	22	2,891	53%
Lawrence	10,026	3,100	2,069	59	5,228	52%
Lee	7,343	1,906	1,713	55	3,674	50%
Lincoln	6,612	1,477	1,614	37	3,128	47%
Little River	8,436	1,824	1,950	39	3,813	45%
Logan	13,375	2,409	4,453	115	6,977	52%
Lonoke	25,351	3,931	9,332	157	13,420	53%
Madison	8,790	1,940	3,624	107	5,671	65%
Marion	9,503	1,501	2,763	185	4,449	47%
Miller	19,558	3,505	6,517	74	10,096	52%
Mississippi	25,166	5,094	5,445	172	10,711	43%
Monroe	5,839	1,373	1,713	31	3,117	53 %
Montgomery	5,624	,931	2,015	46	2,992	53%
Nevada	6,293	1,214	1,575	26	2,815	45%
Newton	5,994	1,131	2,067	83	3,281	55%
Ouachita	19,731	4,183	4,844	85	9,112	46%
Perry	6,407	,950	1,804	75	2,829	44%
Phillips	16,714	3,922	3,951	80	7,953	48%
Pike	6,339	1,111	2,499	32	3,642	57%
Poinsett	12,987	3,178	2,666	80	5,924	46%
Polk	10,929	1,802	3,829	124	5,755	53%
Pope	30,152	4,112	9,634	140	13,886	46%
Prairie	5,620	1,175	1,916	45	3,136	56%
Pulaski	217,354	43,044	50,431	1,211	94,686	44%
Randolph	9,518	2,125	2,026	52	4,203	44%
Saline	46,152	7,541	15,931	441	23,913	52%
Scott	7,657	1,415	2,066	44	3,525	46%
Searcy	5,878	,896	2,246	88	3,230	55%
Sebastian	61,191	8,618	20,940	361	29,919	49%
Sevier	6,858	1,533	1,868	45	3,443	50%
Sharp	11,301	2,493	3,019	75	5,587	49%
St. Francis	16,448	4,099	3,529	63	7,691	47%
Stone	7,734	1,458	2,407	70	3,935	51%
Union	24,578	3,635	6,871	203	10,709	44%
Van Buren	10,338	2,020	3,249	80	5,349	52%
Washington	74,064	12,796	24,591	857	38,244	52%
White	34,789	5,096	11,519	322	16,937	49%
Woodruff	4,825	1,291	1,054	31	2,376	49%
Yell	10,985	2,133	3,252	75	5,460	50%
TOTALS	1,471,971	272,923	421,989	11,099	706,011	48%

Congressional Districts

County	Registered Voters 12/31/98
Arkansas	11,263
Clay	10,002
Cleburne	14,918
Craighead	40,504
Crittenden	26,930
Cross	10,368
Fulton	7,379
Greene	20,467
Independence	18,271
Izard	8,143
Jackson	10,843
Lawrence	10,064
Lee 📗	7,438
Lonoke	26,636
Mississippi	25,610
Monroe	5,872
Phillips	17,184
Poinsett	13,080
Prairie	5,604
Randolph	9,643
St. Francis	16,825
Searcy	6,153
Sharp	11,210
Stone	7,627
Woodruff	4,808
District 1 Total	346,842

County	Registered Voters 12/31/98		
Conway	12,362		
Faulkner	44,498		
Perry	6,546		
Pulaski	217,466		
Saline	47,033		
Van Buren	10,519		
White	34,209		
Yell	10,837		
District 2 Total	383,470		

County	Registered Voters 12/31/98		
Baxter	24,864		
Benton	73,729		
Boone	20,784		
Carroll	13,437		
Crawford	25,136		
Franklin	9,480		
Johnson	11,424		
Logan	13,207		
Madison	8,698		
Marion	9,568		
Newton	6,095		
Polk	11,311		
Pope	30,624		
Scott	7,644		
Sebastian	62,081		
Washington	74,309		
District 3 Total	402,391		

County	Registered Voters 12/31/98		
Ashley	14,530		
Bradley	6,468		
Calhoun	3,743		
Chicot	8,168		
Clark	13,274		
Cleveland	5,008		
Columbia	14,770		
Dallas	6,040		
Desha 🌘	8,284		
Drew	9,874		
Garland	58,602		
Grant	8,663		
Hempstead P	12,436		
Hot Spring	17,216		
Howard	7,221		
Jefferson	45,205		
Lafayette	5,451		
Lincoln	6,740		
Little River	8,360		
Miller	20,013		
Montgomery	5,661		
Nevada	6,142		
Ouachita	19,944		
Pike	6,309		
Sevier	6,983		
Union	25,003		
District 4 Total	350,108		

Year	Voter Turnout	Registered Voters	Turnout	Basis for Percentage
1972	68.90%	939,871	648,069	Gubernatorial
1974	54.70%	996,985	545,947	Gubernatorial
1976	71.20%	1,020,533	726,963	Gubernatorial
1978	51.00%	1,047,453	534,299	Gubernatorial
1980	77.00%	1,076,654	839,928	Gubernatorial
1982	70.70%	1,116,082	789,351	Gubernatorial
1984	76.40%	1,159,588	886,548	Gubernatorial
1986	56.60%	1,227,575	695,487	US Senate
1988	68.80%	1,203,016	827,738	Presidential
1990	57.10%	1,218,525	696,310	Gubernatorial
1992	72.10%	1,317,944	950,653	Presidential
1994	56.20%	1,274,885	719,550	Gubernatorial
1996	64.57%	1,369,459	884,262	Presidential
1998	47.98%	1,471,413	706,011	Gubernatorial

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May Primary Voter Turnout Comparisons from 1972

Year	Voter Turnout	Registered Voters	Turnout	Basis for Percentage
1972	52.50%	939,871	493,500	US Senate
1974	58.70%	996,985	585,378	US Senate
1976	53.40%	1,020,533	548,765	Gubernatorial
1978	55.10%	1,047,453	577,870	US Senate
1980	42.10%	1,076,654	453,583	Gubernatorial
1982	52.00%	1,116,082	580,472	Gubernatorial
1984	44.10%	1,159,588	511,361	Gubernatorial
1986	45.90%	1,188,831	543,740	Gubernatorial
1988	48.40%	1,170,107	565,849	Presidential
1990	49.40%	1,171,027	578,123	Gubernatorial
1992	46.80%	1,191,000	557,493	Presidential
1994	33.80%	1,222,840	413,150	Atty Gen. + Gov.
1996	25.61%	1,282,364	343,203	Presidential
1998	26.02%	1,435,722	373,578	US Senate

Interesting Facts from the Census Bureau

- The largest increase in voting population in 1998 occurred in the 45-64 year old age group.
- Utah currently has the youngest voter population, with more than 20% under age 25.
- Florida represents the oldest population, with 52% over age 45.
- Women lead the voting age population at 52%.
- Women outnumber men in each state except Alaska and Nevada.

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Agencies IVRA

Arkansas Department of Education, Rehabilitation Services

Arkansas Department of Education, School for the Blind

Arkansas Department of Education, School for the Deaf

Arkansas Spinal Cord Commission

Department of Human Services, Developmental Disabilities Services

Department of Human Services, Division of Mental Health

Department of Human Services, Division of Services for the Blind

Department of Human Services, Medicaid

Department of Human Services, Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC)

Department of Human Services, Food Stamp Program

Department of Human Services, Children and Medical Services

Department of Human Services, Division of Children and Family Services

Arkansas Department of Health, Women, Infants and Children (WIC)

Arkansas State Library

Arkansas State Library, Services for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

Arkansas Public Libraries

Arkansas National Guard

Recruitment Offices of the Armed Forces of the United States

Department of Motor Vehicles

Department of Finance and Administration



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Voter Services Department • State Capitol, Room 026 • Little Rock, AR 72201
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Editor: Becky Rowe • Design: Wesley McHan